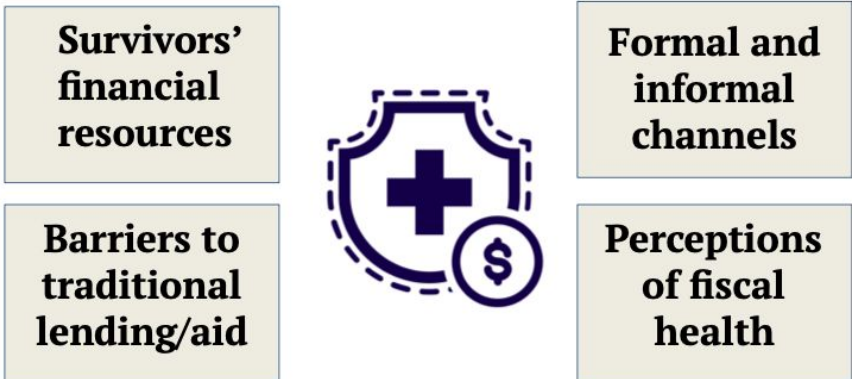


Economic Empowerment for Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence

Project Overview: From January - November 2019, we conducted a community-based assessment of how survivors view their fiscal health. We administered an **initial survey** with **247 clients** obtaining court-based services, and a more in-depth, **follow-up survey** with **59 clients** in our crisis shelter. Clients were compensated for their participation.

Research Considerations and Questions:

- How do survivors view their fiscal health?
- Can you assess financial capacity and fiscal needs?
- What would it take to build adequate support for survivors?



Key Findings: Overall, we found that survivors’ had greater financial capacity than anticipated.

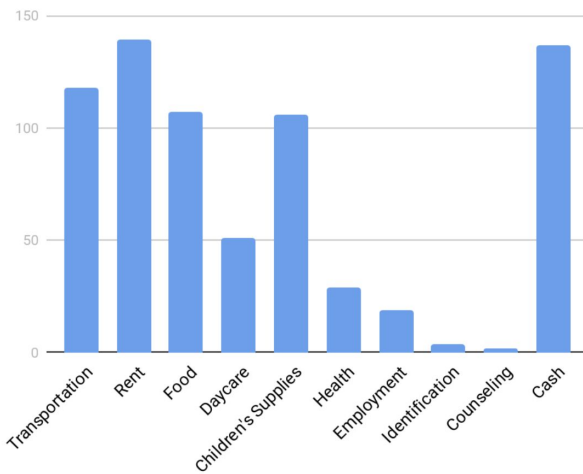
- **49.2%** have a bank account
- **23.7%** have a savings account
- **69.5%** have a debit card, including EBT cards
- **67.8%** receive public benefits of some kind
- **43.1%** receive financial resources from the abuser
- **21.3%** receive resources from abuser’s family
- **39.4%** feel that they can afford daily needs, rent, and incidental expenses next month

Additionally, survivors generally fit into one of two categories: Life-driven and Abuser-driven cases. These categories were derived from the data based on personal and case-based characteristics.

Life-Driven Group	Abuser-Driven Group
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already housing insecure/ homeless and underemployed • Abuse further complicated existing challenges like mental health, substance abuse, intergenerational poverty and other traumas • Holistic services focused on basic needs and financial capacity building are needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abuse reduced financial capacity • Specific barriers and gaps created by abuser, such as childcare, transportation, housing, and credit • Additional skills and financial products needed to help them reach the next stage of financial wellness

Economic Empowerment for Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence

Key Findings Continued: Survivors' financial needs were varied.



What resources are missing that would allow you to feel stable living on your own, independent from the abuser?

Average amount needed to be financially stable in the District: **\$2,200-\$3,000**

Transportation was the most consistent request

Recommendations for Domestic Violence Programs:

- Recognize the role that increasing overall financial capacity plays in the lives of survivors, both short and long-term, and treat this need as an achievable part of goal-setting with survivors.
- Treat survivors' financial or resource position and capacity as a safety planning issue and ask specific questions to assess for short and long-term needs tailored to the individual.
- Create close partnerships with a variety of organizations that provide both short-term financial supports and incentives and long-term financial capacity building and screen survivors for eligibility for a variety of programs to meet individual needs.
- Educate financial capacity programs about the specific needs of domestic violence survivors to allow those programs to serve survivors more effectively, safely and respectfully.
- Incorporate short-term, temporary emergency financial assistance into programming.
- Seek out or create trauma-informed financial capacity building programs to allow survivors a greater chance of long-term success.

Recommendations for Financial Capacity Building Programs:

- Provide trauma-informed financial capacity programming that recognizes the impact that trauma has on financial decision making, short-term thinking and survival-based or scarcity decision funnels.
- Educate staff and integrate information about domestic violence into any and all programming.
- Recognize and address abuser-driven financial capacity gaps and frame those as such rather than a lack of inherent capacity on the part of the survivor.
- Partner closely with domestic violence programs to refer their service population to and from which to receive referrals and training.